



STD Surveillance

A reduction in staff or funding for this activity would cause the program to not be able to meet contractual obligations to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If funding was increased the active surveillance approach utilized for syphilis could be applied to Chlamydia and gonorrhea.

Objective

To assure consistency of surveillance practices in order to effectively monitor disease trends in order to detect outbreaks, adequately describe the problem and recommend solutions, then evaluate the solution.

Performance Indicators

1. Proportion of reported cases of gonorrhea, chlamydia, P&S syphilis, EL syphilis, and congenital syphilis sent to CDC via NETSS that have complete data for age, race, sex, county, and date of specimen collection.
2. Proportion of reported cases of gonorrhea, chlamydia, P&S syphilis, EL syphilis, and congenital syphilis sent to CDC via NETSS within 30 and 60 days from the date of specimen collection.

Narrative

STD Surveillance is the ongoing and systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of health data in the process of describing and monitoring disease trends. The STD surveillance system uses a reported case registry method. Data sources include laboratory reports, morbidity reports, patient interviews, and information provided by or obtained from health care providers. The system is used to estimate the burden of disease, acquire and allocate resources, detect trends signaling changes in the occurrence of disease, detect epidemics, stimulate epidemiologic research, identify risk factors associated with disease occurrence, and assess the efficacy of control measures.

Surveillance supports public health efforts by providing a framework for:

- *Problem detection*—surveillance can identify the emergence of a disease as well as changes in the levels of existing endemic disease. Certain diseases, while not initially

perceived as a problem in the population as a whole, may be a significant problem for specific sub-populations.

- *Problem description*—surveillance can present a picture of disease transmission; can describe both geographic and temporal trends in disease occurrence, populations affected, and changes in the etiologic agent (e.g., antibiotic resistance of microorganisms); and can identify factors mediating disease occurrence.
- *Problem solving*—surveillance can provide information needed to develop and implement strategies for disease control and prevention. It can help develop priorities for the proper allocation of resources necessary to deal with problems and provide a trigger mechanism to activate a public health response to a problem. Surveillance can also be used to generate or confirm a hypothesis.
- *Evaluation*—surveillance data can be used to determine how well a public health response addressed a specific health problem. It also provides a basis for predicting patterns of disease.

In addition to routine surveillance activities, the STD Control Program is funded for infertility prevention and gonococcal isolate surveillance projects. The surveillance component of the infertility prevention project is *Chlamydia Prevalence Monitoring Project Annual Report, 2006* presents statistics and trends for genital *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections in the United States through 2006. This annual publication is intended as a reference document for policy makers, program managers, health planners, researchers, and others who are concerned with the public health implications of this disease

Better Health

STD Surveillance information assists the program to better plan, implement, and evaluate efforts to control STDs. Surveillance is a core public health function and must be considered one of the most essential and of the highest priority in any STD prevention program.

Youth Education

- A CDC study showed that overall, one in four girls in the United States had a sexually transmitted disease. Teens in the study were tested for four infections: chlamydia, trichomoniasis, herpes simplex and the human papillomavirus.
- Students perform better when they show up for class, healthy and ready to learn. STD treatment is needed by a significant portion of Louisiana's youth.

Safe and Thriving Children and Families

- Poverty among Louisiana's citizens has hampered the ability of citizens to receive appropriate treatment for sexually transmitted diseases in a timely manner. Delayed treatment leads to unnecessary spread of disease and complications including infertility. Over 50% of patients seen in STD clinics are less than 25 years old.

Hurricane Protection & Emergency Preparedness

- During an emergency STD clinic staff serve as first responders (individuals involved in an emergency management role) to execute Emergency Support Function 8 tasks.

Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis are included on the list of diseases and conditions that are recommended for national surveillance. This list is designed to reflect the current needs and priorities for public health surveillance at any given time. It is important to use existing STD surveillance data effectively and to apply evaluations to the data being collected. Our diminishing pool of public health resources demands that we look hard at what we routinely do.

Legal Authority: State laws: Partner services are supported by RS 40:1065 – Report of cases, RS 40:1091 – Blood samples; standard test; Louisiana Administrative Code Title 51 – Public Health – Sanitary Code Part II The Control of Diseases Chapter 1; and Federal legislation: The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule

Federal funding that supports this intervention is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through (1) CFDA Number 93.977 Comprehensive STD Prevention Systems Projects, Prevention of STD Related Infertility, Syphilis Elimination and Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project.